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Title: ^Casting out the fly^

Author: Goethe  
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\*A picture of a large  
curved fly\*

Flies, we know now, are  
imperfect creatures,  
generated from  
corruption, which they  
spread everywhere,  
carrying disease and  
contaminating foods.  
Anyone who has travelled  
into the East knows to  
what degree they  
constitute a true  
calamity.

Zoroastrian demonology  
has made the fly a  
female daemon, the Nasu,  
embodying impurity,  
putrefaction and decay,  
feeding in preference upon  
the dead.

Nasu may be smitten by  
corpse eating dogs and  
birds the beneficent  
creatures of Ormazd  
whose glance can cast  
out daemons.

Expelled by their gaze,  
the daemon, disguised in  
the shape of an  
abominable fly, leaves the  
corpse. This forms the  
basis of the Sag-did  
ceremony which must be  
performed before anyone  
can touch the dead.

The worshiper of Mazda  
must dig three holes into

the ground and wash his  
body with goat urine.  
Placing his palm upon the  
lips of the possessed he  
shall chant "GET OUT!"  
three times at which  
time the fly daemon  
escapes through the lips  
and lands on the shoulder  
of the victim. The  
worshiper must then  
capture the fly with his  
left hand and chant the  
words "Return to your  
hells and take with you  
your foul spawn!"  
By opening the left hand  
the daemon fly takes off  
into the night to die and  
if it had spawned children  
within the body of the  
possessed the maggots  
exit through the nose of  
the victim to die in the  
presence of Mazda's  
worshiper.